

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in this application, claims 25-47 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 13, 22, 25, 32 and 33 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 9, 25 and 33 can be found at least in the published application at paragraph [0045]. Support for the amendment to claim 7 can be found in the published application at paragraphs [0046] - [0047]. Claims 10, 22 and 32 are amended for form. Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found at least in the published application at paragraph [0047]. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Bowers at the interview held July 29, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over International Publication No. WO 00/18226 to Owen et al. (hereinafter "Owen"); rejects claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,586,438 to Fahy; rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy; rejects claims 3, 10, 13, 14 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy in view of EP 03-37677 to Eudailey et al. (hereinafter "Eudailey"); rejects claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,681,740 to Messier et al. (hereinafter "Messier"); and rejects claims 15 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Owen or Fahy each in view of Eudailey and Messier. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or renders obvious a pressure control valve that is configured to restrict the rate at which external pressure changes are transmitted to the inside of the portable housing, as recited in

independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 9. Further, none of the applied references teaches or renders obvious a membrane that allows pressure inside the portable housing to be varied, as recited in independent claim 13, and as similarly recited in independent claim 22.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, 13 and 22 are patentable over the applied references. Further, claims 2-8, 10-12, 14-21, 23 and 24, which depend from claims 1, 9, 13 and 22, are patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. For example, as agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or renders obvious a pressure sensor that is configured to maintain the pressure inside the portable housing at a desired pressure, as recited in claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

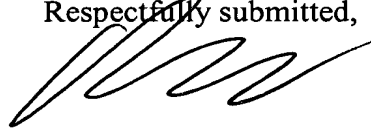
Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn independent claims 25 and 33, upon the allowance of at least independent claims 1 and 22, respectively. Independent claims 25 and 33 include features similar to those recited in independent claims 1 and 22, respectively. Thus, upon allowance of claims 1 and 22, rejoinder and allowance of claims 25 and 33, and the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested. See MPEP §821.04.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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